

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-13 as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claim 1. (currently amended): A network device managing apparatus comprising:  
a storage unit adapted to associate with each other, and to store, store a device list indicating network devices located in found by a search, the device list being associated with identification information that identifies a data processing apparatus which that requested that the search;

a receiving unit adapted to receive a search request for a new search of network devices, and identification information of a data processing apparatus initiating the search request, from the data processing apparatus initiating the search request;

a searching unit adapted to perform a new search for network devices in response to the search request received by said the receiving unit;

an obtaining unit adapted to obtain from said the storage unit the stored device list (if any) associated with the identification information received by said the receiving unit, the obtained device list indicating a search result obtained in a search prior to the new search performed by said the searching unit;

a comparing unit adapted to compare the search result provided by said the searching unit with the device list obtained by said the obtaining unit;

a forming unit adapted to specify any network devices located in found by the new search by said the searching unit but not present in the device list obtained by said the obtaining

unit, and to form a new device list in which such specified network devices are emphasized  
among network devices found by the new search; and

a transmitting unit adapted to transmit the new device list formed by said the  
forming unit to said the data processing apparatus.

Claim 2. (currently amended): A network device managing apparatus comprising:  
a storage unit adapted to ~~associate with each other, and to store, store~~ a device list  
indicating network devices ~~located in~~ found by a search, the device list being associated with  
identification information that identifies a data processing apparatus ~~which~~ that requested that the  
search;

a receiving unit adapted to receive a search request for a new search of network  
devices, and identification information of a data processing apparatus initiating the search  
request, from the data processing apparatus initiating the search request;

a searching unit adapted to perform a new search for network devices in response  
to the search request received by said the receiving unit;

an obtaining unit adapted to obtain from, said the storage unit, the stored device  
list (~~if any~~) associated with the identification information received by said the receiving unit, the  
obtained device list indicating a search result obtained in a search prior to the new search  
performed by said the searching unit;

a comparing unit adapted to compare the search result provided by said the  
searching unit with the device list obtained by said the obtaining unit;

a forming unit adapted to specify any network devices located in found by the new search by said the searching unit of which the state has been changed, and to form a new device list in which such specified network devices are emphasized among network devices found by the new search; and

a transmitting unit adapted to transmit the new device list formed by said the forming unit to said the data processing apparatus.

Claim 3. (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the device list formed by said the forming unit indicates at least one of information regarding whether printing is possible or not and an error state.

Claim 4. (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the device list formed by said the forming unit includes an emphasis mark to emphasize.

Claim 5. (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the device list formed by said the forming unit includes instruction data for allowing a device icon of the data processing apparatus to be displayed in an updated state.

Claim 6. (currently amended): A method comprising:  
a storage step of associating with each other, and storing in a storage unit, storing a device list indicating network devices located in found by a search, the device list being

associated with identification information that identifies a data processing apparatus ~~which that~~ requested that the search;

a receiving step of receiving a search request for a new search of network devices, and identification information of a data processing apparatus initiating the search request, from the data processing apparatus initiating the search request;

a searching step of performing a new search for network devices in response to the search request received by said the receiving unit;

an obtaining step of obtaining, from the storage unit, the stored device list ~~(if any)~~ associated with the identification information received in said the receiving step, the obtained device list indicating a search result obtained in a search prior to the new search performed in said the searching step;

a comparing step of comparing the search result of said the searching step with the device list obtained in said the obtaining step;

a forming step of specifying any network devices ~~located in~~ found by the new search said the searching step but not present in the device list obtained in said the obtaining step, and forming a new device list in which such specified network devices are emphasized among network devices found by the new search; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the new device list formed in said the forming step to the data processing apparatus.

Claim 7. (currently amended): A method according to claim 6, wherein the data formed in said the data forming step includes an emphasis mark to emphasize.

Claim 8. (currently amended): A method according to claim 6, wherein the device list formed in said the forming step includes instruction data for allowing a device icon of the data processing apparatus to be displayed in an updated state.

Claim 9. (currently amended): A method comprising:  
a storage step of ~~associating with each other, and storing in a storage unit, storing~~ a device list indicating network devices ~~located in found by a search, the device list being~~ associated with identification information that identifies a data processing apparatus ~~which that~~ requested that the search;

a receiving step of receiving a search request for a new search of network devices, and identification information of a data processing apparatus initiating the search request, from the data processing apparatus initiating the search request;

a searching step of performing a new search for network devices in response to the search request received by said the receiving unit;

an obtaining step of obtaining, from the storage unit, the stored device list (if any) associated with the identification information received in said the receiving step, the obtained device list indicating a search result obtained in a search prior to the new search performed in said the searching step;

a comparing step of comparing the search result of said the searching step with the device list obtained in said the obtaining step;

a forming step of specifying any network devices ~~located in found by~~ the new search said the searching step of which the state has been changed, and forming a new device list

in which such specified network devices are emphasized among network devices found by the new search; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the new device list formed in said the forming step to the data processing apparatus.

Claim 10. (currently amended): A method according to claim 9, wherein the device list formed in said the forming step indicates at least one of information regarding whether printing is possible or not and an error state.

Claim 11. (currently amended): A method according to claim 9, wherein the device list formed in said the forming step includes an emphasis mark to emphasize.

Claim 12. (currently amended): A computer-readable medium storing a program for controlling a computer so as to execute:

~~a storage step of associating with each other, and storing in a storage unit, storing a device list indicating network devices located in found by a search, the device list being associated with identification information that identifies a data processing apparatus which that requested that the search;~~

a receiving step of receiving a search request for a new search of network devices, and identification information of a data processing apparatus initiating the search request, from the data processing apparatus initiating the search request;

a searching step of performing a new search for network devices in response to the search request received by said the receiving unit;

an obtaining step of obtaining, from the storage unit, the stored device list (if any) associated with the identification information received in said the receiving step, the obtained device list indicating a search result obtained in a search prior to the new search performed in said the searching step;

a comparing step of comparing the search result of said the searching step with the device list obtained in said the obtaining step;

a forming step of specifying any network devices located in found by the new search said the searching step but not present in the device list obtained in said the obtaining step, and forming a new device list in which such specified network devices are emphasized among network devices found by the new search; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the new device list formed in said the forming step to the data processing apparatus.

Claim 13. (currently amended): A computer-readable medium storing a program for controlling a computer so as to execute:

a storage step of associating with each other, and storing in a storage unit, storing a device list indicating network devices located in found by a search, the device list being associated with identification information that identifies a data processing apparatus which that requested that the search;

a receiving step of receiving a search request for a new search of network devices, and identification information of a data processing apparatus initiating the search request, from the data processing apparatus initiating the search request;

a searching step of performing a new search for network devices in response to the search request received by said the receiving unit;

an obtaining step of obtaining, from the storage unit, the stored device list (if any) associated with the identification information received in said the receiving step, the obtained device list indicating a search result obtained in a search prior to the new search performed in said the searching step;

a comparing step of comparing the search result of said the searching step with the device list obtained in said the obtaining step;

a forming step of specifying any network devices located in found by the new search said the searching step of which the state has been changed, and forming a new device list in which such specified network devices are emphasized among network devices found by the new search; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the new device list formed in said the forming step to the data processing apparatus.

Claim 14. (canceled).

Claim 15. (previously presented): A network device managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the identification information is a network address of the data processing apparatus.

Claim 16. (canceled).

Claim 17. (previously presented): A network device managing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the identification information is a network address of the data processing apparatus.